



# December 2006 Newsletter

## Meetings of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance meets monthly via ICN unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to anyone interested in afterschool issues.

### The next meeting will be:

December 19th, 9:30-11:00am

To request ICN sites and/or to RSVP for meetings, please contact Rachel Lynch at [rlynch@sppg.com](mailto:rlynch@sppg.com).

### Please mark your calendar for the following other meetings:

#### January 24, 2007 9:30am - 12pm

Advocacy Training at Butler Elementary, Fort Dodge

945 S. 18th

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at [rlynch@sppg.com](mailto:rlynch@sppg.com) or

515-243-2000

#### February 13, 2007 9:30am-12pm

United Way Human Services Campus, Des Moines

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at [rlynch@sppg.com](mailto:rlynch@sppg.com) or

51-5243-2000

#### March 15, 2007 7:30am-9:00am

Afterschool Day on the Hill, Iowa State Capitol

Legislative Dining Room

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at [rlynch@sppg.com](mailto:rlynch@sppg.com) or

515-243-2000

## Highlights of Out-of-School Time Arts Study

Last session, HF 2797 appropriated funds and provided guidelines for a study of arts education and enrichment programming for school age children outside of school settings. 109 afterschool programs participated in an electronic survey developed by the IAA, the Iowa Arts Council and a Resource Group. The survey asked about availability, quality, funding, and other issues related to arts programming offered during out-of-school time. Model programs were also profiled. To request a copy of the full report, email Dawn Oropeza at [dawn.oropeza@iowa.gov](mailto:dawn.oropeza@iowa.gov).



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Rachel Scott at [rscott@sppg.com](mailto:rscott@sppg.com) or 515-243-2000.

Highlights of the data include:

- 37.4% of respondents are community-based non-profits, and 25.2% identify as a school-based before or afterschool program.
- Across the state, parents bear the cost of about 60% of out-of-school arts programming for their children. School districts are another primary source of funding.
- Programs tend not to use a formal curriculum, but many offer instruction by trained arts staff (whose training may or may not extend to an arts teaching degree).
- The art forms most frequently offered are music and crafts.
- High school students are about half as likely to receive out-of-school arts programming as elementary age students.
- Programs tend to be less available in rural areas.
- Iowa's arts enrichment programs are unlikely to provide transportation, and are also unlikely to have a waiting list for youth to be served.
- Out-of-school arts programs often do not formally assess student outcomes due to lack of staff time and/or because assessments have not been a priority of funders or other overseeing agencies.

## Recommendations

After reviewing and discussing the survey results, the Resource Group made the following recommendations:

1. Fund an expanded study of out-of-school arts programs within the context of other existing data sets. The Resource Group sees this initial study as a first step; by assessing the status of out-of-school arts programs it has identified further questions for study. An expanded quantitative and qualitative study would provide data that supports decision making about program expansion.
2. Develop a long-term strategy to create an infrastructure that supports out-of-school programs, with support for arts enrichment as a key component. There is a clear need to develop program capacity to increase quality, collect and analyze data effectively, and increase access,

affordability, and sustainability of out-of-school arts programs. This includes the development of a comprehensive database of out-of-school arts providers.

3. Target funding through grants or other venues to enrich the quality of afterschool arts education programs, provide professional resources to instructors, and extend the number of afterschool arts programs available in rural areas and to middle school and high school students.

## PEAK Afterschool Conference

McREL and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning are pleased to announce the 3rd annual PEAK (Practices that Engage and Attract Kids) Afterschool Event – coming to three major Midwestern cities in 2007!

This year, a series of three two-day workshops across our region – Kansas City, MO, Wheeling, IL (Chicago area) and St. Paul, MN – are designed to offer new ideas for academic enrichment in your program. Together, the three workshops offer in-depth professional development covering six academic areas: Math & Science, Arts & Literacy, and Homework & Technology.

- **Math & Science, Kansas City, MO February 22-23, 2007**
- **Literacy & Arts, Wheeling, IL March 8-9, 2007**
- **Homework & Technology, St. Paul, MN May 3-4, 2007**

Registration is only \$50 per session; however space is limited, so register today!

For more information and to register visit

[www.mcrel.org/peak](http://www.mcrel.org/peak).

## Grants and Awards Available

Grants to Support Afterschool Programs and Community Development Ameriquest Mortgage Company is sponsoring up to 75 Create Your Legacy grants of \$15,000 each for youth-led projects to improve afterschool programs and their communities. Applicants should submit a proposal for \$10,000 to improve an afterschool program and one for \$5,000 for a community development project. Youth should play an active role in developing the proposals. The

deadline is January 15. For more information, visit:

<http://www.ameriquetcares.org/1SignaturePrograms/CreateYourLegacy.shtml>.

### **Coming Up Taller Awards**

The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are seeking applications for the Coming Up Taller Awards. The awards focus national attention on exemplary programs fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's youth. Fifteen awardees will receive \$10,000 in addition to national recognition for their program. The deadline for applications is January 31. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cominguptaller.org/awards.html>.

### **Awards for Volunteerism**

The Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service and the Knights of Columbus are accepting nominations for the Daily Points of Light Award, which honors people and organizations engaged in exemplary volunteer and community service work. Nominations are accepted year round, but reviewed on a quarterly basis with the next review session deadline on February 15. For more information call 202/729-8184 or visit:

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol/nominate.cfm>.

### **Programs Needed to Participate in a Center for Summer Learning Study**

To help advance the knowledge of the field, the Center for Summer Learning is pleased to announce a new study, What Does It Take to Invest in Summer? The Center will conduct a detailed two-year cost analysis of summer learning programs to improve understanding among practitioners, policymakers, and philanthropists about the actual costs incurred in operating high-quality summer learning experiences. What Does It Take to Invest in Summer? will create a strong foundation for future policy decisions and research. The Center will use the findings to advocate and empower partner organizations to advocate for increased public and private investment in summer learning programs.

If your organization operates a program and you're willing to be considered as a possible study participant, please fill out a brief survey. If you know of programs who might be interested in participating, please consider sharing this opportunity with them. In the survey, we ask for some basic information about your program's costs and characteristics. From the programs interested in participating, the Center will select a sample to be included in the analysis.

Programs selected will be asked to commit approximately three hours of staff time per month over the course of five months from April to August to record program costs. Programs participating in the study will receive a cost calculation tool, training on how to use the tool, and technical assistance throughout the summer. These programs will also receive a \$250 honorarium. For more information, visit:

<http://www.summerlearning.org/resourcesresearch/index.html>.